

Appl. No. 10/087,713
Reply to Office action of Oct. 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on October 4, 2004 ("Office Action"). Claims 1-50 were rejected. In this amendment, claims 1 and 36 have been amended and claims 51-90 have been added. Claims 1-90 remain in this application.

In the specification, cross reference information has been added and paragraph [0014] has been amended.

Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for the time extended to Applicants in the telephonic interview of March 14, 2005. Applicants note that the Interview Summary provided by the Examiner mistakenly lists Mr. Samir Lehaff as a participant; however, Mr. Samir Lehaff was not a participant in the interview. Instead of Mr. Samir Lehaff, Mr. Jesper Stroe should be listed. Applicants also note that the interview took place on March 14, not January 14 as noted on the Interview Summary form.

Applicants explained that the references Fickes and Miner fail to render claim 1 obvious. Applicants explained that one would not be motivated to combine the references Fickes and Miner. Applicants explained that Fickes describes a personal information manager extension, which is directed to a single user. Thus, because Fickes discloses a personal information manager extension, one would not be motivated to combine the personal system of Fickes with an attendant that is coupled to a corporate information system.

Further, Applicants explained that, even in combination, the references fail to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 1. Applicants explained that claim 1 includes providing a server coupled to a corporate information system. In contrast, Fickes teaches a personal information manager. Additionally, although the Office Action states that Fickes discloses a server, Applicants pointed out that such item is a "PIM extension" rather than a server corporate information server.

Applicants indicated that the various dependent claims disclose further differences that are not taught or suggested by the references. Applicants referred to claim 3, which indicates that the server is a modular appliance. PIM extension 125, which the Office Action equates with a server, is

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software residing on a personal computer. Applicants explained that one would not be motivated to modify such PIM extension to comprise a modular appliance.

As to claim 9, Applicants explained that one would not be motivated to combine the PIM extension 125 of Fickes, which relates to personal information and is on a personal computer with corporate attendant or public attendant. In contrast, Applicants' claim includes an inventive and advantageous use of an electronic attendant coupled to a corporate information system. Applicants explained that such an approach is completely different from what is disclosed in Fickes and therefore one would not be motivated to modify Fickes to achieve the advantages of the invention of claim 9.

As indicated in the Interview Summary provided by the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that the Examiner believed that aspects of dependent claims 3, 9, 19, 37 and 43-46 could be novel and that the Examiner would consider amendments based on such claims. No agreement was reached as to whether the claims required amendment, or as to any particular amendment.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner objected to paragraph [0014] stating "'The mobile communication system 10' and 'the conference server 10'" should not be same number." The specification has been amended as shown above. The objection is believed overcome. Removal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Correction of Informality in Claim 1

Applicants have amended claim 1 for reasons discussed below. Additionally, in claim 1 "computer network" has been replaced with "first network," in order to provide a term with antecedent basis.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 7-14, 21-25, 32-38, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-14, 21-25, 32-38, and 47-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,526,274 ("Fickes") in view of US Patent No. 6,047,053 ("Miner"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

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As stated above in the Examiner Interview Summary, Applicants believe that the references Fickes and Miner fail to render claim 1 obvious, even without amendment to claim 1. Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to expedite allowance, but Applicants reserve the right to pursue claim 1 at a later time. As explained above, one would not be motivated to combine the references Fickes and Miner. As also explained above, Fickes describes a personal information manager extension, which is oriented to a single user. Thus, because Fickes discloses a personal information manager extension, one would not be motivated to combine the personal system of Fickes with an attendant that is coupled to a corporate information system.

Further, as explained above, even in combination, the references fail to teach or suggest all the elements of claim 1. Claim 1 includes providing a server coupled to a corporate information system. In contrast, Fickes teaches an extension to a personal information manager.

Further, the Office Action cites item 125, Figure 1 of Fickes for a server. See Office Action at p. 3 ("providing a server (125; fig. 1)"). However, the Office Action provides no reasoning as to how such item in Fickes is a server coupled to a corporate information system. As labeled in such Figure 1 of Fickes, this item 125 in Fickes is a PIM (personal information manager) extension. Fickes indicates that such item is an extension to a personal information manager (PIM). See Fickes, column 3, line 31. Fickes indicates that the invention of Fickes extends the functionality of a PIM so that it can be used to control a user's telephone system more fully, and provides access to data structures maintained by the PIM. See Fickes, column 3, lines 7-11. However, there is no reasoning in the Office Action as to how this description of a PIM extension teaches a server coupled to a corporate information system. Further, Fickes explains that extension 125 executes on computer 210. Computer 210 is a PC (personal computer). Thus, Fickes teaches an extension executing on a user's PC and provides no teaching of a server coupled to a corporate information system. Thus, even in combination, the references fail to fully disclose an element of claim 1.

Thus, even without amendment, claim 1 is believed patentable over the cited references. Additionally, claim 1, as amended includes providing a server for a plurality of users. Such an approach is not taught or suggested by the references. In particular, Fickes discloses a personal information manager, which is provided for a user, rather than a plurality of users (see for example,

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Figure 1 of Fickes, which shows a single user). For this additional reason, claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the references, even in combination.

Additionally, claim 1 has been amended to include "wherein the electronic attendant comprises a public attendant or a corporate attendant." As explained above in reference to claim 9, one would not be motivated to combine the PIM extension 125 of Fickes, which relates to personal information and is on a personal computer with corporate attendant or public attendant. In contrast, Applicants' claim includes an inventive and advantageous use of an electronic attendant coupled to a corporate information system. There is no suggestion in Fickes to modify the extension to a personal information manager taught in Fickes such that the extension to the personal information manager is coupled to a public attendant or a corporate attendant. Therefore one would not be motivated to modify Fickes to achieve the advantages of the invention of claim 1, wherein the electronic attendant comprises a public attendant or a corporate attendant.

Claims 2, 4, 7-14, 21-25, 32-38, and 47-49 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons as to claim 1 and are also believed independently patentable. Removal of the rejection of such claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 15-17, 31 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 15-17, 31 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fickes and Miner further in view of US Patent No. 6,714,778 ("Nykänen"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Such rejection is based on the combination of Fickes and Miner. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that such combination is not taught or suggested by the references. Further, as discussed above, it is believed that, even if such references are combined, claim 1 is not taught or suggested. Therefore, such claims 15-17, 31 and 50 are also believed patentable because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Such claims are also believed independently patentable.

Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claims 15-17, 31 and 50 is respectfully requested.

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Rejection of Claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fickes and Miner further in view of US Patent No. 6,405,035 ("Singh"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Such rejection is based on the combination of Fickes and Miner. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that such combination is not taught or suggested by the references. Further, as discussed above, it is believed that, even if such references are combined, claim 1 is not taught or suggested. Therefore, claims 18-20 are also believed patentable because they depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

Additionally, such claims are also believed independently patentable. For example, claim 18 includes dynamically associating a user with a speech terminal using data stored in the CIS. However, Fickes is directed to an extension to a personal information manager. Associating a user with a speech terminal provides advantages in a system that works with a plurality of users. However, there is no suggestion so provide such an approach in a system such as Fickes that is directed to an extension to a personal information manager. Further, the Office Action points to no suggestion or teaching that would motivate one to modify an extension to a personal information manager to take such an approach. For similar and additional reasons, one would not be motivated to modify Fickes to include the approaches disclosed in claims 19 - 20. Thus, for these additional reasons, in addition to the patentability of claim 1, such claims are believed patentable over the cited references.

Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claims 18-20 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fickes and Miner further in view of Patent No. US 6,070,081 ("Takahashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Such rejection is based on the combination of Fickes and Miner. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that such combination is not taught or suggested by the references. Further, as discussed above, it is believed that, even if such references are combined, claim 1 is not

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taught or suggested. Therefore, claims 5-6 are also believed patentable since they depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Additionally, such claims are also believed independently patentable.

Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claims 5-6 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fickes and Miner further in view of US Patent No. 6,731,927 ("Stern"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Such rejection is based on the combination of Fickes and Miner. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that such combination is not taught or suggested by the references. Further, as discussed above, it is believed that, even if such references are combined, claim 1 is not taught or suggested. Therefore, since claims 28-30 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, such claims are also believed patentable.

Additionally, such claims are also believed independently patentable. For example, Fickes is directed to an extension to a personal information manager. One would therefore not be motivated to modify Fickes in view of Stern to cause the data to include data related to an organization's employees. Such an approach is contrary to Fickes' teaching of an extension to a personal information manager. Therefore, one would not be motivated to combine the reference Stern with Fickes and Miner. For this additional reason, in addition to the patentability of claim 1, the references fail to render claims 28-30 unpatentable.

Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claims 28-30 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 3, 39-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 3, 39-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fickes and Miner further in view of US Patent Application No. 2004/0002325 ("Evans"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Such rejection is based on the combination of Fickes and Miner. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that such combination is not taught or suggested by the references. Further, as discussed above, it is believed that, even if such references are combined, claim 1 is not taught or suggested. Therefore, since claims 3, 39-46 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, such claims are also believed patentable.

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Additionally, such claims are also believed independently patentable. For example, claim 3 indicates that the server is a modular appliance. The Office Action has stated that Evans teaches a modular appliance. However, Applicants explained that the PIM extension 125 that the Office Action equates with a server is software residing on a personal computer. One would not be motivated to modify such PIM extension to comprise a modular appliance. Because the PIM extension in Fickes is already included within a personal computer, using a modular appliance would cause the invention of Fickes to be less convenient. Thus, there is no motivation or suggestion in Fickes for such a modification. For this additional reason, in addition to the patentability of claim 1, the references fail to render claim 9 obvious.

Claims 39-46 are also believe independently patentable, in addition to the reasons as to claim 1, as discussed above.

Accordingly, removal of the rejection of claims 3, 39-46 is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 51-90 have been added. It is believed that such claims are patentable over the cited references and review and approval of such claims are respectfully requested.

Such claims are based on the original claim 1, along with additional amendments. For the reasons discussed above, it is believed that the combination of Fickes and Miner argued in the Office Action with respect to claim 1 is not taught or suggested by the references. Therefore, such combination is also believed inapplicable to the new claims. Additionally, such claims include features so that such claims are independently patentable.

For example, claim 51 includes accessing a user profile every time a user logs onto the mobile communication system using a speech terminal. Support for such amendment is found in part of claim 19, which is discussed above.

Claim 62 includes providing a set of speech responses to a speech terminal. Support for such amendment is found in part of claim 37.

Claim 66 includes wherein the speech terminals include multi-modal interfaces. Support for such amendment is found in part of claim 40.

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Claim 73 includes caching information from the CIS on the server. Support for such amendment is found in paragraph 41 of Applicants' specification.

Claim 86 includes connecting to the server from a speech terminal and configuring the server through the speech terminal and an electronic attendant and installing a software component related to the server on the CIS and configuring the CIS to use the software component. Support for such amendment is found in paragraph 42 of Applicants' specification.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 30519.701.202).

Respectfully submitted,

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